

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE BOARD FOR GEOLOGISTS AND GEOPHYSICISTS?

### MISSION

The mission of the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists is to continually enhance the quality, significance and availability of geological and geophysical services to the people of the State of California.

### THE BOARD

- Protects the health, safety and welfare of the public by testing and licensing geologists and geophysicists.
- Deters negligent, incompetent and fraudulent practices through licensure, regulation and disciplinary action.
- Provides the public with information concerning disciplinary actions the Board has taken against geologists or geophysicists.



***ANYONE WHO OFFERS TO PRACTICE  
OR PRACTICES GEOLOGY OR  
GEOPHYSICS FOR THE PUBLIC IN  
CALIFORNIA MUST BE LICENSED AS  
A GEOLOGIST OR GEOPHYSICIST.***

## QUESTIONS ABOUT LICENSING REQUIREMENTS AND THE EXAMINATION

### For information about:

- Professional Geologist Examination
- Requirements for Licensure as a Geologist
- Examinations for Licensure as a Professional Geophysicist, Certified Engineering Geologist or Certified Hydrogeologist

### please contact the Board at:

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SUITE 300A  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95833

(916) 263-2113  
FAX: (916) 263-2099

E-MAIL: [geology@dca.ca.gov](mailto:geology@dca.ca.gov)  
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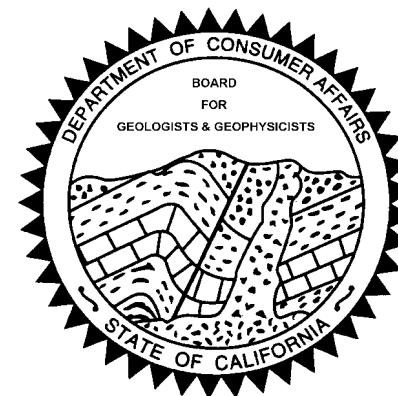
### For information about ASBOG, please contact:

ASBOG  
P.O. BOX 11591  
Columbia, SC 29211-1591

E-MAIL: [asbog@asbog.org](mailto:asbog@asbog.org)  
WEBSITE: [www.asbog.org](http://www.asbog.org)

## STUDENT GUIDE TO GEOLOGIC LICENSURE IN CALIFORNIA

### CALIFORNIA BOARD FOR GEOLOGISTS AND GEOPHYSICISTS



**An introduction to the three steps to  
licensure as a Professional Geologist  
in California:**

### EDUCATION

### EXPERIENCE

### EXAMINATION

## **EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE**

### ***ACADEMIC COURSES***

The Board considers the following courses to be essential to the geologic profession and to best prepare students to take the licensing examination. The Board also considers these courses a solid foundation for any specialty in the field of geology.

*Physical Geology, Historical Geology,  
Mineralogy, Petrology, Structural Geology,  
Stratigraphy, Field Geology*

### ***PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE***

An applicant must have the following combination of education and professional geologic work:

<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIC WORK</b>
BS/BA*	3 YEARS
MS/MA+*	2 YEARS

\*BS/BA or MS/MA Degree must be in Geology.

### **GEOLOGIST-IN-TRAINING**

College graduates with majors in Geology may take the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) “Fundamentals of Geology” (FG) examination. Once the graduate passes the exam, s/he will be issued a certificate as a Geologist-in-Training. The FG exam is the first of three exams necessary to become licensed in California (the other two are the ASBOG “Practice of Geology” (PG) exam and the Board’s “California specific” exam that can be taken after the graduate has obtained the required professional geologic work experience). This certification will be a strong qualification for graduates to add to resumes as they conduct job searches.

## **PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIC WORK**

Professional geologic work is defined as work performed at a professional level rather than a sub-professional or apprentice level and requires the application of scientific knowledge, principles and methods to geologic problems through the exercise of individual initiative and judgment in investigating, measuring, interpreting and reporting on the physical phenomena of the earth. Implicit in this definition is the recognition of professional responsibility and integrity and the acknowledgement of minimal supervision. Professional geologic work specifically does not include such routine activities as drafting, sampling, sample preparation, routine laboratory work, etc., where the elements of initiative, scientific judgment and decision making are lacking, nor does it include activities that do not use scientific methods to process and interpret geologic data. Further, it specifically does not include soils engineering, soils sampling, soils testing or other activities in or related to the agricultural application of soils sciences, nor does it include mining, mining engineering or other engineering and/or other physical sciences wherein geologic investigation, analysis and interpretation are minimal or lacking.

### **RESPONSIBLE POSITION**

Responsible position means a position whereby a person having individual control and direction of a geologic project exercises individual initiative, skill and judgment in the investigation and interpretation of geologic features or the supervision of such projects.

## **EXAMINATION**

### ***ASBOG***

The National ASBOG is a non-profit organization through which state geology registration boards act together to coordinate and improve regulation of the practice of geology. One of ASBOG’s principal duties is to develop standardized written examinations for determining qualifications of applicants seeking licensure as professional geologists.\*

### **THE EXAMINATION**

In the Spring of 2000, the Board began administering the ASBOG examination with a one-hour supplemental California-specific exam. Examinations are administered in the spring of each year. Currently, ASBOG provides member boards with two multiple-choice examinations – the FG and the PG. The FG examination is designed to test skills acquired in an academic setting. The PG examination emphasizes skills and knowledge acquired or expanded in a practice or job.\*

### **ELIGIBILITY**

The Board will evaluate each applicant’s education and experience. If the application is approved, the applicant will be scheduled for the next regularly scheduled examination.

\*ASBOG 1999 “Professional Geologists’ Candidate Handbook”